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Remarks

In view of the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-13 are not anticipated by Bu

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bu (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0101172 published August 1, 2002). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

With regard to claim 1, Bu describes with respect to FIG. 2 (having similar elements as in FIG. 1) and paragraph 0016, at line 4, an active-matrix image display device comprising:

- several light emitters forming an array of emitters distributed in rows and columns (see, Bu at paragraph 0002 and paragraph 0016: "OLED array");
- power supply means (see, Bu at paragraph 22: "supply voltage Vs") capable of supplying current to emitters of a column during an emission step;
- means for controlling the emission of the emitters comprising:
- for each emitter of the array, a current modulator (see, Bu at paragraph 6: transistor 21) comprising a source electrode ("current carrying electrode": 211 or 212), a drain electrode ("current carrying electrode": 212 or 211) and a gate electrode (213), a drain current being able to pass through said

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modulator in order to supply said emitter, for a voltage between the drain or the source and the gate equal to or greater than a trip-threshold voltage,

- for each column of emitters, column address means capable of addressing in succession each emitter of said column of emitters by applying a value representative of a data setpoint ("data signal") to the gate electrode of the modulator associated with this emitter (see, Bu at paragraph 0007),
- for each row of emitters, row select means capable of selecting in succession the emitters of each row of emitters ("scan signal"; 3 – transistor 22) , and
- for each modulator, storage means ("capacitor" 23) capable of storing electric charges at the gate electrode of the modulator; and
- trip-threshold voltage compensation means comprising comparators, the comparators being capable of comparing, during the step of programming a selected emitter, a value representative of the drain current supplying the selected emitter with the value representative of the data setpoint for controlling the quantity of charge stored in the storage means.

Bu does not disclose :

- a) a single determination unit for each column of emitters;
- b) this determination unit being capable of determining a value representative of the drain current supplying the selected emitter on the basis of a measurement of a representative value of the supply current for all of the emitters of the column;
- c) the supply means V_S for the emitter 1 being capable of supplying simultaneously all of the emitters of a column;
- d) such supplying being performed not only during an emission step but also during the programming step.

More specifically:

- a) in Bu, the image display device does not include "for each column of emitters, a single determination unit 26". The comparator 6 of Bu is not capable of determining a value representative of the drain current of each emitter of a

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column of emitters. This is because, the comparator 6 of Bu is designed for a single emitter 1 and not for the set of emitters of a column (see, claim 1 of Bu: "a system for driving an organic light-emitting diode, comprising a current comparator; see, paragraph 16 of Bu: "one unit of an OLED array or FPD includes an OLED 1, ... a current comparator 6").

b) in Bu, the comparator 6 is not suitable for determining "a value representative of the drain current supplying the emitter selected on the basis of a measurement of a value representative of the supply current for all of the emitters of the column". This is because the comparator 6 is capable of measuring directly the value representative of the drain current I_{OLED} passing through the single emitter OLED 1 selected.

c) in Bu, the supply means V_S for the emitter 1 are not suitable for supplying the emitter 1 "during a programming step and during an emission step". This is because, in Bu, the supply means V_S supply the emitter 1 only during the emission phase, and it is the address line 4 that supplies it during the programming step (see, Bu at paragraphs 0018-0019 and 0022).

d) in Bu, the supply means V_S are not suitable for supplying "simultaneously all of the emitters of a column". This is because, in Bu, the supply means V_S supply only the emitter 1. Consequently, as claim 1 is not described in Bu.

In view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Bu and therefore, claims 2-13 are also patentable based on their dependence on claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application, are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in

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condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Verlangieri, Attorney
Reg. No. 42,201
(609) 734-6867

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing LLC.
P. O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

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